

Implementation of an integrated electronic referral to local Diabetes Prevention Programs within a family medicine clinic

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Context

- Patients in our community are concerned about obesity and diabetes, with significant racial disparities in diabetes rates.¹
- Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPPs) are an evidence-based treatment that can prevent or delay development of diabetes, but they are underutilized.²
- There is financial and logistical support to increase utilization of DPPs at a national, state, and local level.³
- Integration of DPP referrals into existing clinic work-flow via Electronic Health Records (EHRs) is an important first step to increase utilization of DPPs.^{4,5}

Objective

- To develop and pilot an integrated electronic referral system to local Diabetes Prevention Programs.

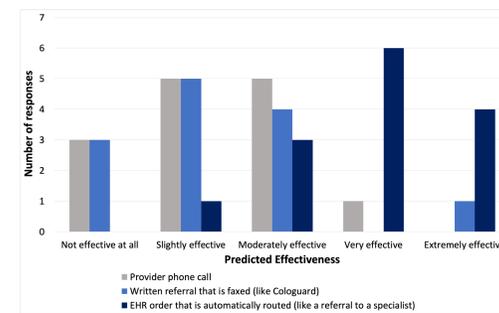
Methods

- Consultation and coordination across multiple groups
- Survey of Duke Family Medicine residents
- Creation of a prediabetes registry within the EHR to identify patients who may be eligible for a DPP
- Development of an electronic referral to local DPPs and supporting EHR Smart Phrases
- Pilot testing of the EHR referral process

Conclusion and Next Steps

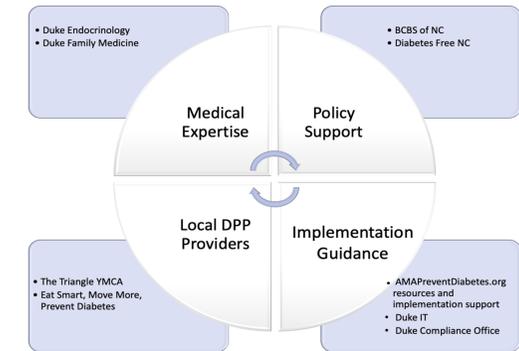
- Creation of the electronic referral was a surprisingly complex process. Persistence and careful planning with regular guidance from all groups involved is vital to the project's success.
- An initial pilot process has been completed and shown promise for increasing utilization of DPPs by family medicine clinic patients.
- Next steps include: Education campaign for clinic providers about DPPs and the new referral process, retrospective referral of eligible patients (n = 1700) using the prediabetes registry, and development of clinic-flow for Point of Care DPP referrals.

Results



Residents' predicted effectiveness of different referral methods. N = 14, response rate = 88%

New electronic referral order in EPIC EHR.



Groups consulted in the development of the electronic referral.

Letter for patients eligible for DPP.

To date, ~55 referrals have been placed electronically to the YMCA. YMCA staff have attempted to contact 25, have successfully contacted 13, and are working towards enrollment with 6 patients.

References

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